

In the Claims:

Claims 1-39 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 20, and 28 have been amended, and claims 40-42 have been added. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A pair of stretchable athletic pants comprising:
a body portion comprising:
a panel of a stretchable material comprising a first edge,
said first edge being sealed,
a second edge overlapping said first edge of the panel forming an overlapping region, said panel being bonded in at least a portion of said overlapping region via an overlapping bonded seam,
said second edge being sealed,
wherein said body portion further defines a crotch and buttocks region, a waist opening and two leg openings such that a user can insert a leg through each of said leg openings and pull said body portion upward into a wearing position.
2. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a substantially flat seam.
3. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a curved seam.
4. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 3, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a curved seam comprising a minimum radius of curvature of at least about 4 centimeters.
5. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a straight seam.
6. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a bonding agent disposed in at least a portion of said overlapping region.
7. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises said panel being directly bonded in at least a portion of said overlapping region.

8. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein said panel of stretchable material comprises an elastic material.
9. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein said panel of stretchable material comprises a moisture wicking material.
10. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein said panel of stretchable material comprises a multi-layered denier gradient structure.
11. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein the pants comprise pants selected from one or more of the group comprising: a pair of athletic shorts, a pair of cycling shorts, a pair of athletic pants, a pair of cycling pants, a bib, a cycling bib, a pair of tights, a pair of briefs.
12. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, further comprising a chamois disposed adjacent at least a portion of said panel of stretchable material.
13. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 12, wherein said chamois is disposed in said crotch and buttocks region of said body portion.
14. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein said second edge comprises a second edge of said panel.
15. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein said second edge comprises an edge of a second panel.
16. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein the pants are designed to be worn as a base layer.
17. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein said panel comprises a nylon and spandex blend.
18. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 17, wherein said panel further comprises a nylon, polyester and spandex blend.
19. (original) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein said seam comprises a structural seam.
20. (currently amended) A pair of cycling pants comprising:

a body portion comprising a first panel of an elastic material and a second panel of an elastic material attached along a seam, said body portion further comprising a crotch and buttocks region, a waist opening and two leg openings such that a user can insert a leg through each of said leg openings and pull said body portion upward into a wearing position,

wherein said seam comprises a sealed edge of the first panel and a sealed edge of the second panel arranged in an overlapping bonded seam.

21. (original) The cycling pants of claim 20, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a substantially flat seam.

22. (original) The cycling pants of claim 20, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a curved seam.

23. (original) The cycling pants of claim 22, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a curved seam comprising a minimum radius of curvature of at least about 4 centimeters.

24. (original) The cycling pants of claim 20, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a straight seam.

25. (original) The cycling pants of claim 20, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a bonding agent disposed in at least a portion of an overlapping region of said first panel and said second panel.

26. (original) The cycling pants of claim 20, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises said first panel and said second panel directly bonded in at least a portion of an overlapping region of said first panel and said second panel.

27. (original) The cycling pants of claim 20 further comprising a chamois disposed in said crotch and buttocks region of said body portion.

28. (currently amended) A method of making stretchable athletic pants comprising:

providing a panel of a stretchable material having a first edge;

sealing the first edge;

providing a second edge;

sealing the second edge;

overlapping said first edge and said second edge to form an overlapping region;

bonding said panel in at least a portion of said overlapping region to provide an overlapping bonded seam; and

forming a body portion of a pair of stretchable athletic pants comprising said panel, said body portion comprising a crotch and buttocks region, a waist opening and two leg openings such that a user can insert a leg through each of said leg openings and pull said body portion upward into a wearing position.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a substantially flat seam.
30. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein said bonding operation comprises directly bonding said panel in said overlapping region.
31. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein said bonding operation comprises bonding said panel in said overlapping region using a bonding agent.
32. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein said bonding agent comprises a thermoplastic polyurethane adhesive.
33. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a straight seam.
34. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein said overlapping bonded seam comprises a curved seam.
35. (original) The method of claim 34, wherein said curved seam comprises a minimum radius of curvature of at least about 4 centimeters.
36. (original) The method of claim 28, further comprising disposing a chamois in said crotch and buttocks region of said body portion.
37. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein said first panel of stretchable material comprises an elastic material.
38. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein said second edge of the pants comprises a second edge of said panel.
39. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein said second edge of the pants comprises an edge of a second panel.
40. (new) The stretchable athletic pants of claim 1, wherein the first edge is sealed by a laser while cutting the panel.
41. (new) The cycling pants of claim 20, wherein the sealed edge of the first panel and the sealed edge of the second panel are sealed using a laser.
42. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of sealing the first edge comprising the step of cutting the panel with a laser and the step of sealing the second edge comprises the step of cutting the panel with the laser.